

教宗方濟各致青年信函

親愛的青年人：

我很高興向你們宣佈，在 2018 年 10 月將召開以「青年、信仰和聖召辨別」為主題的主教會議。我希望你們成為大家注意的中心，因為你們是我記掛在心裡的。今天，已介紹了「預備諮詢文件」，我同樣將這份文件交給你們，作為陪伴你們踏上這次主教會議旅途的指南針。

我記起天主向亞巴郎說：「離開你的故鄉、你的家族和父家，往我指給你的地方去」（創 十二 1）。這也是對你們說的。是一位父親邀請你們「離開」，向著一個未知的將來而前進，但肯定能夠帶領你們達到圓滿境界的將來，一個祂會陪伴著你們的將來。我邀請你們去聆聽天主透過聖神的氣息，在你們心中發出的聲音，當天主對亞巴郎說：「離開！」時，天主想說什麼呢？祂當然沒有要亞巴郎逃離自己的家人及周遭的世界。亞巴郎接受了一個難以抗拒的邀請、一項挑戰，就是捨棄一切而到一個新的地域去。為今天的我們「新的地域」代表什麼，不外乎就是深藏在你們年輕人心中的渴望及冀望，即在世界的每一角落建立一個更符合正義及友愛的社會嗎？

但很可惜，今天這個「離開！」也有著不同的意思，即：濫用權力、不公義及戰爭所做成的。你們當中許多人正受到暴力的真正威脅，被迫逃離自己的家園。他們的呼籲已上達到天主的跟前，就像那些被法郎壓迫和奴役的以色列人一樣（參：出 二 23）。

接着，我想讓你們記起耶穌那一天怎樣回答問他的門徒：「辣彼！[……]你住在哪裡？」他回答說：「你們來看看吧！」（若一 38）。耶穌凝視著你，邀請你跟隨祂。親愛的年青人，你們有沒有察覺祂對你們的凝視？你們聽到祂的聲音嗎？你們有否踏上這旅途的強烈意願？雖然你們身處在這個普遍嘈雜和混亂的世界，但我可以肯定，這樣的聲音仍然會在你們內心深處迴響著，當你們能敞開心門，必能達到圓滿的喜樂。這是可能的，在於你們學到如何踏上這個辨識的旅程，甚而透過有識見者的指導，去尋覓天主在你們生命中的計劃。當這旅途不太確定而你們失足時，富於慈悲的天主會伸出祂的手來扶持你們的。

在上屆於克拉科夫舉行的普世青年節的開幕禮中，我多次問你們：「我們可以改變事情嗎？」你們大聲呼喊說：「可以！」這是來自你們年輕及青春的心扉，絕不會容忍不公義，不會向「即棄文化」低頭，向冷漠的全球化投降。細聽發自你們內心的呼籲！你們可能會有耶肋米亞先知，一種因年輕而缺少經驗的感覺，然而天主鼓勵你們去祂派遣你們去的地方：「不要害怕，[……]，因為我同你在一起」（耶一 8）。

要建立一個更美好的世界也需要你們的努力，需要你們有改變世界的願望和慷慨大方。你們不要害怕聆聽聖神，祂會向你們提出大膽的抉擇；當你們的良心要求你們冒險來跟隨師傅時，不要再延遲了。教會亦希望聆聽你們的聲音、你們的感受和你們的信仰；甚至你們的疑惑和批評。使你們的聲音能夠被聽到，在你們的團體中迴響，讓靈魂的牧者都能聽到你們的呼喊。聖本篤要求隱修院院長在做重要決定前，要去詢問甚至年輕的會士，因為「天主屢次把良策啓示給年紀較輕的人」（《本篤會規》參 3）。

既然是這樣，在本次主教會議的旅途上，我和其他主教弟兄更想「作你們喜樂的合作者」（格後一 24）。我將你們交托在納匝肋的瑪利亞手中，她好像你們一樣年輕，被天主所眷愛，願她拉著你們的手來帶領你們，充滿著喜樂和大方地回應天主的召叫，對祂說：「我在這裡」（參：路一 38）。

摯愛你們的

方濟各

2017 年 1 月 13 日 發自梵蒂岡

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE
PREPARATORY DOCUMENT
OF THE 15th ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

My Dear Young People,

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your “compass” on this synodal journey.

I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” (Gen 12.1). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to “go”, to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, “Go!”, what did he want to say? He certainly did not

say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this “new land” for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

But unfortunately, today, “Go!” also has a different meaning, namely, that of abuse of power, injustice and war. Many among you are subjected to the real threat of violence and forced to flee their native land. Their cry goes up to God, like that of Israel, when the people were enslaved and oppressed by Pharaoh (cf. Ex 2:23).

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: “Teacher [...] where are you staying?” He replied, “Come and see” (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: “Can we change things?” And you shouted: “yes!”. That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a “throw-away culture” nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: “Do not be afraid, [...], because I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because “the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best.” (Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to “work with you for your joy” (2 Cor 1:24). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might

take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God's
call with the words: "Here I am" (cf. Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,

FRANCIS

Given at the Vatican, 13 January 2017